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the map and in the field. On the map he was able in both theory and practice. His theories are text-books; his letters are treatises. No higher praise can be spoken than to say that every one of his campaigns was, in a military sense, properly planned. It is he who collated all that was done by the other great captains, clothed it in a dress fit for our own days, and taught the modern world how to make war in perfect form" (IV. 713).

Taken as a whole, this work constitutes an invaluable addition to military literature; certainly there is nothing else in English possessing the same scope and exhaustiveness, and, perhaps, it is not too much to say that the student may search every other language in vain for a general military history of the most consummate of the great captains which is better than Colonel Dodge's *Napoleon*.

FREDERIC LOUIS HUIDEKOPER.

The Political History of England. Edited by WILLIAM HUNT, D.Litt., and REGINALD L. POOLE, M.A. Volume XII. *The History of England during the Reign of Victoria (1837-1901)*. By SIDNEY LOW, M.A., Fellow of King's College, London, and LLOYD C. SANDERS, B.A. (London and New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1907. Pp. xviii, 532.)

To the authors of the twelfth volume of the *Political History of England* is assigned the whole of the long reign of Queen Victoria—sixty-four years. When Dr. Hunt and Mr. Poole laid out the plan of the history and compressed this long and crowded period into a single volume, it is evident that in approaching modern times, they considered it better to have simply a compendium of events with little or no opportunity for the expression of opinions or ideas that might lead to controversy. This is the only reasonable explanation of the fact that this volume should cover a longer period than any previous volume of the *History* since volume IV., which ends with the death of Richard III., in 1485. As a colorless record of events and a clear elucidation of the history of parties and of political developments in England during the last half of the nineteenth century, the work of Messrs. Low and Sanders is completely successful, and, as a book of reference of this character, it has no rival in the field. No earlier writer of any standing had made a similar attempt to produce in one volume a complete and reliable history of the Victorian era in England. Of the two histories of any account that had previously appeared—Mr. Herbert Paul's *Modern England* and Sir Spencer Walpole's eight volumes of English history in the nineteenth century—neither covers the whole period, nor can claim to be unbiassed. Dr. Franck Bright's text-books probably come nearest to the work of Messrs. Low and Sanders; but they stop short at 1880, and, being written chiefly for students preparing for examinations, lack something of the scholarly character that attaches to the history under review.

The work of condensation was the more arduous on account of the enormous volume of material available. For no other period does there exist the store of newspaper files, Parliamentary papers, Hansards, collected speeches, memoirs, biographies, diaries and letters, which Messrs. Low and Sanders have so faithfully consulted. Unfortunately the authors had completed their work before the appearance of Queen Victoria's *Letters*—a work of such importance to the writers of English history that it may almost be said that it necessitates the rewriting of all history written before its appearance. The *Memoirs* of Baron Stockmar and Sir Theodore Martin's *Life of the Prince Consort* though having something of the same point of view give but an adumbration of the flood of light that the queen's correspondence sheds upon English politics, and upon the bungling conduct of affairs in the years when Russell, Aberdeen and Palmerston were contending for the premiership. While Messrs. Low and Sanders have been singularly successful in their attempt to write without party bias, it must not be supposed that they have succeeded entirely in the impossible task of concealing their conservative point of view. This is shown not only in the estimates of men and policies; but also in the amount of space given to some of the great Liberal movements of the reign. Trade-unions and labor representation in Parliament are little more than mentioned, although the first labor member took his seat in the House of Commons in 1868 and the number of labor representatives in Parliament rose within Queen Victoria's reign to seventeen. The work of the Nonconformists in liberalizing England, in regard to religious and church matters, is not given its full due; and the Salvation Army is treated in the tone commonly adopted towards it by English churchmen in the early eighties. The co-operative movement, which has revolutionized both wholesale and retail trade in the north of England and the Midlands, is not even mentioned; and only three lines are given to the movement for municipal ownership, which during the queen's reign transformed every town and city in England and gave to each a business-like and enterprising municipal government. Limitations of space may be pleaded in respect to these shortcomings; but it can hardly be said that these movements and developments are of less account to the student of political history than the conduct of wars or the making and unmaking of cabinets. The most valuable part of Messrs. Low and Sanders's history is that treating of political parties and Parliamentary developments in the first twenty years of the queen's reign. So excellent, so lucid and so skilful is the treatment of the intricate political situations and the confusions of parties during the years when Melbourne, Peel, Russell, Derby, Palmerston and Aberdeen were the political leaders, that the student must regret that the plan of the history did not permit the writers to devote the whole of their 500 pages to the first half of Queen Victoria's long reign, allowing another volume of equal size for the years from the opening of the new era of democracy in 1868 to 1901.

Two maps at the end of the volume give at a glance the redistribution in county and borough representation effected by Gladstone's Redistribution Act of 1885, which was the complement of the Reform Act of 1884 under which the rural laborer was for the first time enabled to cast a vote. Another excellent map shows the expansion of the British Empire between 1837 and 1901. A useful feature of the volume as a book of reference is the table of the cabinets of Queen Victoria. This table is so arranged as to show the fluctuations as to cabinet rank of the holders of certain offices. The Postmaster-General, for example, was a cabinet minister during just about half of the queen's reign, and it frequently happened that in the same administration the Postmaster-General was not continuously a member of the cabinet. The section on authorities which is compiled in accordance with the plan adopted at the outset of the *Political History* is of great value to students. Though its critical treatment of the sources is of the briefest, it is pertinent and illuminating; and in spite of the omission of many works that might have been mentioned, it must be acknowledged to be both comprehensive and fairly exhaustive.

A. G. PORRITT.

The Letters of Queen Victoria. A Selection from Her Majesty's Correspondence between the Years 1837 and 1861. In three volumes. Edited by ARTHUR CHRISTOPHER BENSON, M.A., and Viscount ESHER, G.C.V.O., K.C.B. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1907. Pp. xix, 641; xiv, 575; xi, 657.)

FROM the point of view of students of English political history and also of the politics of Continental Europe of the middle years of the nineteenth century, it is almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of this first installment of Queen Victoria's letters. The editors in their preface intimate that in making their selections from the letters, which belong to the period between the queen's accession in 1837 and the death of the prince consort in 1861, their purpose was to publish such letters as would bring out the queen's character and disposition. Their aim, they add, was to produce a book for the British people rather than to make a special appeal to the students of political history. By their selection the editors have raised a monument to the queen's capability, her sincerity, her sense of the duties and responsibilities of the sovereign, and her great moral worth. They have also given the world a book which must long overtop in historical importance any British political memoirs that have issued from the press. The queen's letters stand alone. They are in a class by themselves; and they must continue to hold their unique position in the political literature of England at least until the *Letters of George III.*, equally well edited and on a correspondingly large scale, are at last made available for students of British and American history.

It is indicative of the newer attitude towards political biography and